

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on May 9, 2003, Applicants submit herewith an election of a restricted group with traversal. Please consider the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-48 are pending in the present application.

Election of Invention

The Examiner has restricted the pending claims into Groups I and II. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect the claims of Group II (Claims 8-48) for prosecution in the present application. Because Applicants do not believe that the searching requirements in this case constitute an undue burden, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement.

Request for a Telephone Conference

The Examiner has characterized the claims of Group II as being drawn to both a polymer and a method of making the same. Applicants do not believe that the searching requirements for the claims of Group II constitute a burden sufficient for a further Restriction Requirement to issue in this case. However, if the Examiner believes a further Restriction Requirement is necessary, Applicants wish to expedite that process in two ways. First, Applicants respectfully request a telephone conference at the number provided below. Second, in order to avoid the delay in selecting a new Examiner for unfamiliar claims, Applicants request guidance on which Group II claims are most relevant to the Examiner's area of expertise.

Appl. No. 09/963,858
Amtd. dated June 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2003

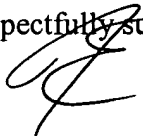
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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